

Docket No.: 94100414(EP)USC1X1C1D3 PDDD
USSN: 09/771,062

PATENT
Art Unit: 2154

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 05, 2005. Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 4. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicant has removed the term "optionally" from claims 1 and 4. Applicant contends that the current claims are no longer indefinite under 35 USC § 112.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvath, et al., (US Patent No. 5,450,599), in view of Dargel et al., (U.S. Patent No. 4,398,176). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the following reasons.

A.

Neither Horvath, nor Dargel, alone or in combination, teach, suggest, or
describe "a portion of the new data words capable of being used
to prepare the pipeline for processing at one or more stages."

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The present invention describes a number of methods and systems wherein a portion of a data word is used to prepare a pipeline for processing. This suggests that the data word has two components, the data itself and the token (i.e. control information). Unlike the present invention, even if Horvath is capable of preparing a pipeline for processing at a number of stages, it does not use a portion of the same data word that contains the data. Instead, Horvath uses a separate data word.

At column 11, lines 25-44, Horvath describes how "one of said processing stages is coupled to a second one of said processing stages through a buffer means that includes an image data input buffer means for storing at least one image data block, said buffer means further including means for buffering, in association with each stored image data block, control information for specifying processing control information to said second processing stage for controlling the processing of the associated image data block. (emphasis added).

From this description one can see that Horvath, even if it is designed to handle data and control information, handles the information in two different buffer means. A first buffer means is for image data and a second buffer means is for control information. This requires that the two types of information in Horvath, handled in two different buffer means, be two different data words. Thus, it cannot be said that Horvath covers the present claims, where a portion of a data word is used to prepare a pipeline for processing.

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The Examiner rejected claims 5-7 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvath, et al., in view of Dargel et al., (U.S. Patent No. 4,398,176), and in further view of Morrison et al., (US Patent No. 4,985,766). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the following reasons.

B.

Neither Horvath, nor Dargel, nor Morrison alone or in combination, teach, suggest, or describe "a portion of the new data words capable of being used to prepare the pipeline for processing at one or more stages."

Claims 5-7 are dependant claims. Claims 5-7 depend from independent claim 4. Independent claim 4 has been amended in the present response. For the same reason that it is argued that claim 4 is in a condition for allowance (Please see part A. above), claims 5-7 are also in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn for at least the reasons cited in parts A. and B. of this response.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1175.

Respectfully submitted,

DISCOVISION ASSOCIATES



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Dated: July 1, 2005

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